

Appl. No. 10/708,244
Amdt. dated May 20, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 25, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Double Patenting

5 Claim 20 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 11.

Response:

10 Claim 20 has been canceled.

2. Claim Rejections

15 Claims 6 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Response:

20 Claim 17 has been canceled, and claim 6 have been amended to recite "the sliding part" having "a vertical slit" instead of "a connecting protrusion". This amendment is fully supported by specification paragraph [0039]. No new matter is introduced.

3. Claim Rejections

25 Claims 1-6, 9-11, 13-17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yasumi (US 4,884,907).

Response:

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Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to include allowable limitations of original claims 2 and 7. Claim 7 has been canceled. Claims 3, 5, and 8 have been amended to depend on the amended claim 1. No new matter is introduced.

As the Examiner has stated in the section "Allowable Subject Matter" of this Office action, claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicants believe that the amended claim 1 has been placed in condition for allowance. Claims 2-6 and 8-12 are dependent on the amended claim 1, and should be allowable if the amended claim 1 is found allowable.

Claims 13-20

Claims 13-20 have been canceled.

New Claim 21

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Claim 21 is added and includes limitations of original claims 1 and 12. No new matter is introduced.

As the Examiner has stated in the section "Allowable Subject Matter" of this Office action, claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicants believe that new claim 21 has been placed in condition for allowance.

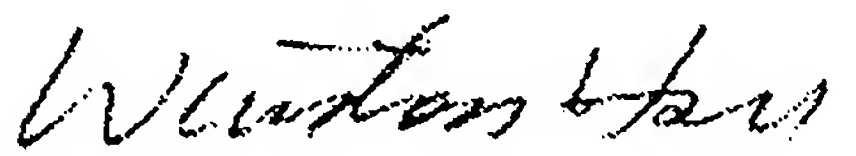
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Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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